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URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the YEAR 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF ABRAM.

Area in acres ..... 1984. Population - Census, 1931 - 6660.

Registrar-General's estimate  
of population, mid-1946 ..... 5845.

Population under 15 years of age:-

Age group 0 - 4 (inclusive) ..... 517.

Age group 5 - 14 (inclusive) ..... 862.

Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census, 1931 - 1458.

(b) End of 1946 according to rate books -  
1573.

Rateable value ... £20,738. Sum represented by a penny rate - £78.

Social Conditions. Abram is mainly a colliery district and the greatest percentage of the population is employed in colliery work. Some of the inhabitants are employed outside the district in such industries as cotton mills, silk mills etc. Dairy farms and agricultural work employ a few.

The houses are mainly of the working class type. Due to land subsidence caused by colliery excavations our houses and drainage suffer badly.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	100	47	53
Illegitimate	6	5	1
Total	106	52	54

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1946 - 18.1

<u>Stillbirths:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	2	0	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 18.

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
77	40	37

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population - 13.1.

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis - Nil.

Other maternal causes - Nil.

Total maternal mortality - Nil.

Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	47
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	50
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	9
" " Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

	Per 1,000 of estimated population			
	Live birth rate	Crude death rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death rate from Cancer
Mean of 5 years, 1941 - 1945	19.5	12.4	0.24	1.47
Year 1945	18.1	13.4	0.17	1.43
" 1946	18.1	13.1	0.17	1.53
<u>Increase or decrease in 1946 on:-</u>				
5 years' average, 1941-1945	-1.4	0.7	-0.07	0.06
Previous year	Nil	0.3	Nil	0.10

	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Death rate under 1 year per 1,000 live births
Mean of 5 years, 1941 - 1945	Nil	Nil	53
Year 1945	Nil	Nil	79
" 1946	Nil	Nil	47
<u>Increase or decrease in 1946 on:-</u>			
5 years' average, 1941 - 1945	Nil	Nil	6
Previous year	Nil	Nil	32

CAUSES OF DEATHS:

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1
Cancer of uterus	-	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
Cancer of all other sites	2	4
Intracranial vascular lesions	7	6
Heart Disease	9	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	2	3
Other Respiratory diseases	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Appendicitis	1	-
Other Digestive disorders	2	1
Nephritis	1	-
Congenital diseases and birth injuries	1	-
Suicide	1	-
Other violent causes	5	2
All other causes	2	9
	40	37

AGE INCIDENCE:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0 - 1 year	2	3
1 - 2 years	Nil	Nil
2 - 5 "	2	Nil
5 - 10 "	Nil	Nil
10 - 20 "	2	1
20 - 40 "	4	Nil
40 - 50 "	2	2
50 - 65 "	11	11
65 years and over	17	20
	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 37

Mortality: There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during 1946. Again this year there were no mothers dying as a result of childbirth.

Sickness and Invalidity: Apart from an epidemic of whooping cough, generally the health of the inhabitants of Abram has been very good.

Due to working conditions the colliers have suffered from ailments and accidents but not to any greater extent than usual.

Public Health Officers of the Authority: The Medical Officer of Health is part-time employed.

Mr. H. Allen, who holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute, is whole-time employed as Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Laboratory Facilities: Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Public Health laboratories deal with the pathological work.

Ambulance Facilities: There is a joint Ambulance Service for Hindley, Ince and Abram, which works very efficiently. The ambulances are motor vehicles.

Infectious diseases are conveyed by motor ambulances provided by Astley Sanatorium.

The Public Assistance Committee retain their own motor ambulance for the reception of cases at Billinge Hospital.

The collieries of the Abram district have their own arrangements for conveying accident and sickness cases to their appropriate destinations.

The ambulance services for Abram are good.

Nursing in the Home: There is a full-time District Nurse employed by the Abram Nursing Association. The County Health Visitor assists in and directs the treatment of children and infants when they come within her jurisdiction.

Child Welfare: The Lancashire County Council are responsible for this branch of the public service. There is a clinic situated behind the Abram Council Offices which is open each Wednesday. The mothers receive advice about their babes and dried milk is distributed. The milk stocks have been good.

There has been an increasing number of ante natal cases and the accommodation and structure of the clinic for this work is not at all satisfactory. I hope that this state of affairs will not have to be endured much longer.

The attendance at the Clinic by the public is very good.



Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases: Abram is a member of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board which has an Infectious Diseases Hospital at Astley. This hospital has eighteen beds for Smallpox cases and one hundred and twelve beds for other types of infectious diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally: There were seventy-nine infectious diseases notified during 1946 as compared with 146 during 1945. Fifty of the total infectious diseases were notifications of whooping cough. Respiratory complications of this disease were few.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during 1946.

Of the fifteen cases of pneumonia, five died.

Again this year there were no cases of puerperal pyrexia notified.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of:

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin - Supplied free of charge to medical practitioners. Used promptly.

Are supplies readily available? Yes.

If so, where kept? At the house of the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum - Supplied when required free of charge.

Are supplies readily available? No.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners? Only at council's discretion.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations: No. of specimens examined in 1946 - Diphtheria .. 4.

Diphtheria Immunisation: School children are immunised regularly every week at the Child Welfare Clinic on attendance.

No. of children immunised during the year:

(i) pre-school children .. 71. Prophylactics used .. A.P.T.

(ii) School children .. 9. Prophylactics used .. A.P.T.

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st December, 1946:

	<u>Under 5 years of age.</u>	<u>Over 5 and under 15 yrs. of age.</u>	<u>Total under 15 years of age.</u>
No. of children who have been protected by artificial immunisation up to 31st December, 1946.	210	553	763
Percentage of number so protected to the total number of children in the age group.	37	64	55

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1946.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages.	Under												65 and over
		1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45		
Scarlet fever	4			1			2	1						
Measles (excluding rubella)	10	2	2	2	2	1	1							
Whooping cough	50	4	2	13	7	9	14	1						
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	15	1				1			1	1	2	6	3	
Totals	79	7	4	16	9	11	17	2	1	1	2	6	3	

Total deaths: Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal) - 5.

Total cases removed to hospital: Scarlet Fever - 3.

Disinfection after infectious disease:

No. of houses disinfected during 1946 - 7.  
Method - Sulphur Dioxide.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Deaths</u>	
	<u>Non</u>		<u>Non</u>	
	<u>Respir- atory</u>	<u>Respir- atory</u>	<u>Respir- atory</u>	<u>Respir- atory</u>
	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>	<u>M. F.</u>
Years.				
0	...	...		
1	...	...		
5	...	...		
10	...	...		
15	...	...		
20	...	...		
25	...	...		
35	...	...		
45	...	...		
55	...	...		
65 and upwards				
Total	3	2	1	1
	5		1	

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths:  
All were previously notified.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing: No. of houses erected by the local authority - 17 temporary bungalows.

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding. No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year - 18.

No. of families dwelling therein - 32.

No. of persons dwelling therein - 126.

No. of new cases reported during the year - 2.

No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year - 10.

No. of persons concerned in such cases - 51.

Housing Conditions: 75% of the houses are over 40 years old. Due to mining subsidence and inability to obtain materials and labour for repairs many houses are in a very unsatisfactory condition. Overcrowding is likely to increase owing to the non-availability of new houses.

The demand for houses is very great. Nearly 500 applications have been received. Mostly 3 bedroom type houses are required.

72 houses are in course of erection.

Land has been acquired for an additional 100 houses.

A special difficulty in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses is the lack of suitable sites due to mining subsidence.

Water Supply: The supply to all parts of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. There is a piped supply to every house in the township.

The following examinations of the water were made during the year:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Bacteriological Examination	1	Satisfactory
Chemical Analyses	1	Satisfactory

Sanitary Inspections: No. of premises visited - 712.

Defects or nuisances: No. discovered - 291; No. abated - 262.

No. of notices served: Informal - 137. Statutory - 14.

Legal Proceedings: No. - Nil; Result - Nil.

Eradication of bed bugs: The method used is to open up all breeding places such as floor boards, picture rails and skirtings and spraying with vermicide after which the whole premises are fumigated with "Thermatox". Five cases have been dealt with during the year and there has been no case of re-infestation.

Rodent Infestation: The Council have appointed a joint rodent operator with Aspull U.D.C. and he works alternate fortnights in each district. The whole of the Council's sewerage system and sewage disposal works and other undertakings have been treated and re-treated. The whole of the district is being systematically surveyed. All cases of domestic infestations are treated and cleared by the Council's rodent operator. In other cases the owners' attention is drawn to the fact and it is pleasing to have the co-operation of owners in every case.

Canal Boats: Number inspected - 5.

Number of infringements of Acts - 2.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Action taken with regard to Milk Supply:

Supervision has been maintained over dairies and cowsheds.

Farms: No. of dairy farms - 16.

Approx. number of cows in the district - 153.

Cowkeepers: No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) - 15.

No. of inspections during the year - 122.

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) - 1.

Examinations for presence of tubercle bacilli:

Tuberculous milk: No. of samples submitted - 16.

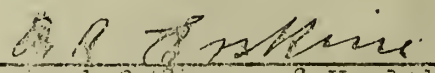
Result: Positive - Nil. Negative - 16.

Bacteriological examinations: No. of samples - 16.

No. satisfactory - 12. No. unsatisfactory - 4.

Factories: There has been no matter occurred during the year which calls for special mention.

Signed,

  
Medical Officer of Health.

14th November, 1947.